Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Palent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

	Under the Pa	aperwork Redu	iction A	vot of 1995, no persons	are required to respond to a collection	of information unitiess it contains a valid OMB control number		
Substitute for form 1449A/PTO					Complete if Known			
					Application Number	09/956,903		
INFO	RMATI	ON DIS	CL	OSURE	Filing Date	September 21, 2001		
STA	TEMEN	T BY A	PP	LICANT	First Named Inventor	FLETCHER, Thomas		
				10	Soup Art Unit	2816 2193		
	(use as man	ny sheets as	nece	ssary) 8 1	aminer Name	Not assigned Chat Da		
Sheet	1	of	1	- Bur	torney Docket Number	2207/11270		

PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials *	0144	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee of	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where		
	Cite No.¹	Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
•		5.777.491	07/07/98	Hwand			
		4.570.084	02/11/86	Griffin et al			
_		5.977.789	11/02/99	Gayles			
		5.568.069	10/22/96	Chow			
		6.028.454	02/22/00	Elmasry et al			

Examin er Initials*		Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD- YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	Cite No. ¹	Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				Т ⁶
CD		JP 5-259893 - Furuki (Abstract JP405-259893A)	10/8/93	Furuki		

OTHER PRIOR ART NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate) title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T2			
		Related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/020,447, filed December 18, 2001				
		Related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/892,565, filed June 28, 2001				
		Related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/893,868, filed June 29, 2001				

Date Considered	05/	107	105

EXAMINER: Injural interence considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

¹ Unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <u>www.uspto.gov</u> or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.